

BONN**Socialist Schizophrenia**

The Social Democratic Party of West Germany finds itself in quite a dilemma in relation to the next general election in Britain. It sees evidence of growing strength in Britain's Labor Party and as a simple matter of socialist solidarity it would like to see Labor win. However, recent foreign policy statements by Labor chief Harold Wilson (on such matters as recognition of the Oder-Neisse Line and recognition of East Germany) ad-

Abroad

vocate positions that West Germans, of whatever party, will never tolerate. The Social Democrats are also among the most vociferous advocates of Britain's entry into the Common Market and the British Labor Party is campaigning on an anti-Common Market platform. In short, on the practical issues of the campaign (NATO, maintenance of the Western Alliance, the Common Market) it is the Conservatives rather than the Laborites who reflect here the thinking of the German Social Democrats.

MEXICO CITY**Polish Visitor**

Prime Minister Cyrankiewicz of Poland visited Mexico early last month to establish Poland's interest in closer cooperation with Mexico. The success of Cyrankiewicz' mission was demonstrated by President López Mateos' reciprocating visit to Warsaw earlier this month.

QUEBEC**A New OAS?**

Election excitement prevented publicizing of the activities of a new French separatist group called the *Front de Libération Québécois* (FLQ). Embittered by the diminished discussion of an independent French Canada, separatists have turned to terrorism—destroying the Wolfe Monument commemorating British conquest of French Canada, bombing the National Revenue Building at Ottawa, damaging a rail line over which former Premier Diefenbaker's train was to pass, and bombing Montreal armories. Quebec authorities suggest *pièdes noirs* may be behind the new group, pointing to the altered rhetoric (*libération*, not *séparatisme*), the number of Algerian immigrants now in Canada and the expertise of the saboteurs.

BENI ABBES, FRENCH SAHARA**Desert Ship**

After 2,500 years of speculation, scientists are finally mastering the physiological secrets of the camel's ability to do without water on long journeys—just at the time when specially treaded trucks and tractors are replacing camels as the ships of the desert. As a result of studies initiated in 1953 by two Swedish biologists, it has been shown that the camel, in performing his incredible feat of drinking thirty gallons of water in ten minutes, is in reality not taking on a reserve supply of liquid, but replacing what he has lost. Over a non-drinking period of

weeks he gradually wrings water out of each bodily cell—though very slowly, sweating hardly at all, with hair and hump protecting him from the sun's rays, and excreting very little through the kidneys—until he has lost a fourth or more of his normal weight. But this dehydration, unlike human dehydration, does not lead to loss of appetite for dry food or the acidosis that soon causes human death.

RANGOON**To the Left, March!**

There is no further reason to doubt that General Ne Win's ousting of Aung Gyi early in February meant what it seemed to mean—a sharp turn toward the totalitarian Left. Burmese socialism, moderate in form under Aung Gyi's influence as under U Nu before him, is to be interpreted by U Ba Nyein, a Communist who has now become the military junta's chief braintruster. Already this year the export-import trade and the institutions involved in distributing rice (the main food), as well as the entire banking system, both domestic and foreign-owned, have been nationalized. Most of the civilian politicians are in jail, exile or house arrest. Measures are being



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"Look here old chap . . . have the Russians got some sort of secret hold over you?"

taken against native and foreign businessmen and foreign investors. The junta aims to bring the big minorities (Karens, Kachins and the Thai peoples of the Shan states) under centralized control, but this may well prove beyond its power, and thus create an obstacle to the totalitarian development. In fact, the Thais, rather than submit unconditionally to Rangoon, may shift toward the perspective, lately put forward tentatively in Peiping, of a Thai Federation linking the peoples of the Shan states with their Thai cousins in northern Thailand, Laos, North Vietnam and China's Yunnan province.

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